

*from the Author
Tom Keate of
Kings College Cambridge*

THE

A D D R E S S

OF

WILLIAM BULL, Gent.

TO THE

STEWARD OF THE MANOR.

[Price 1s.]



THE
ADDRESS

OF

WILLIAM BULL, Gent.

TO

WILLIAM POOL, Esq;

STEWARD OF THE MANOR

OF

BISHOP'S-WHITELANDS,
IN THE SOUTH PART OF GREAT-BRITAIN.

THE SECOND EDITION,
WITH ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS.

Ἔς τὸ πᾶν ἐρμηνέων χαρίζα.

PINDAR.

'Twas Caviar to the general.

SHAKESPEARE.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR J. DODSLEY, PALL-MALL.
M,DCC.XC.

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A D D R E S S

WILLIAM POLLOCK

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STEWART OF THE MANOR

BISHOP OF WHITELANDS

IN THE SOUTH EAST OF GREAT BRITAIN

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TO
WILLIAM POOL, Esq;
STEWARD OF THE MANOR
OF
BISHOP'S-WHITELANDS,
IN THE SOUTH PART OF GREAT-BRITAIN:

THE *humble ADDRESS and COMPLAINT*
of WILLIAM BULL, Gent. in behalf of
himself, and others of his family, claiming
protection against sundry threatening mes-
sages and incendiary letters, sent round the
country by certain levellers and trespassers,
against the peace of the most worshipful the
Lord of the Manor, his tenants and ad-
herents:

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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...in certain levels and positions.

1890

Lord of the Manor

P R E F A C E.

A DIALOGUE *between* Mr. WILLIAM BULL
and his PRINTER.

Printer. SO then, Mr. BULL, you decline dealing any longer in *advertisements in the newspapers*, and in pasting up handbills and notices upon the *park-gates*, and are determined to address the *Steward* yourself at once, without the usual round-about method of making information. I must confess the shortest way is oftentimes the best, but this is a case of some nicety, and I must be excused giving any advice upon the subject.

Wm. Bull. Mr. Printer, I have been long considering which would not only be the most effectual way for my own purpose, but also the most delicate to the Gentleman himself; for though he and *my Father and Mother* have been acquainted for many years, yet I am myself a perfect stranger to him. I have seen and heard him, it is true, at our *Court-Leet*, and I should like to hear him again, for he talks like a man of business, and much to the purpose; yet to force myself into his presence without any introduction, I was in the mind would not be paying him a proper compliment. But when I reflected, that gentlemen in great men's service seldom have time to read newspapers, except to see who and who are married, who died yesterday, and what great lady was brought to bed of a son and heir, the list of bankrupts, and the price of stocks, I thought with myself it is possible our *Steward* may not have read my *advertisement*, though I published it in the *London* *

* WM. BULL's letter appeared only in the *Bath Chronicle* of Dec. 10th, not being thought worth insertion in the *Oracle*.

as well as the Country papers; and therefore I have taken the liberty to put it out of the common form of a notice or hand-bill, and have been persuaded to send it in a letter immediately to the Steward himself; and few gentlemen, I have heard, return letters unopened, whatever uses they may apply them to afterwards—whether to light their fires, or their tobacco-pipes.

Printer. But will it not be said that you borrowed from yourself, and that it betrays rather a barrenness of invention to apply to your own hoard so soon? Beware of *plagiarisms* of all kinds; you know what a noise there is about the country upon that score already.

Wm. Bull. That *plagiarism* is a hard word, Mr. Printer, though I think I can in some measure guess your meaning; but I take it, that any man has a right to do what he will with his own. If I have a coat, which I should wish to make up in another form, I do not think myself accountable to
any

any man for cutting it into a waistcoat ; or if I have only a waistcoat, I see no reason why I may not lengthen and enlarge it, and make a coat of it, provided that I take care to hide the seams, that it may not appear a piece of patch-work : or indeed, supposing it were, no one, I should think, can be hurt by that ; 'tis I that am to have the credit or disgrace of wearing it, and other people have no occasion to trouble themselves, whether my coat is too long or too short. If I borrow, indeed, a piece of cloth from one, a yard of shalloon from another, and desire a third to find the lace and trimmings, and finish the whole for me, I think I ought to declare to whom I was indebted for the materials and workmanship ; for in fact the coat with all these additions is not my own : but if it was all bought and paid for with my own money, I presume I may take the liberty to dress it up into what fashion I please, and will cut, piece, join, alter, make and unmake, as best suits my own fancy.

Printer. / But you will not pretend to say
that

that the materials are new and perfectly original?

Wm. Bull. I have not the vanity to claim to myself the merit of the invention. The coat is made of a stout piece of broad-cloth, *not yet worn thread-bare*, spun, woven, and manufactured throughout, by a comical sort of ^b a workman, who, though he might smile inwardly at his own conceits, while he was most employed, had the art of making every one else laugh out, without laughing himself. The only concern I have had in the work was to cut out the cloth, fit it up in the present fashion, and endeavour to make it fit easy.

Printer. But do you think that your petition will be attended to?

Wm. Bull. That is hereafter as may appear. From the character of the present gentleman, and from stewards seldom neglecting their tenants' suits, I have no rea-

son to doubt of its success. And therefore, Mr. Printer, I beg I may hear no more of your scruples; for I am resolved to hazard the trial; and I am sure that what is our interest must be his, as his concerns, we know, are not indifferent to us.

THE
ADDRESS
TO

WILLIAM POOL, Esq;

STEWARD OF THE MANOR OF BISHOP'S-WHITELANDS.

S I R,

I AM descended from a very ancient and reputable family, that has been settled for these *two centuries* in the manor of *Bishop's-Whitelands*, held under your Lord, in the *South* part of this island. My *Father*^a, who has realized a good fortune by trade, which he carries on still with some success,

^a The St—e, uniting the commercial and landed interests.

[The Editor of *William Bull's Address* would not have taken the liberty to give this clue to the reader by marginal references, but in deference to the superior judgment of his friends, and the unanswerable authority of *Arbutnot* and *Swift*.]

is

is a sober industrious man, just in his dealings, and moderate in his principles, never known to oppress his tenants or workmen, and of too great a spirit to suffer himself to be trampled on. My *Mother*^b is a quiet inoffensive kind of woman as ever lived; and though we, as well as my *elder Brother John*^c, who keeps a great flock of sheep, and deals largely in wool, have ever been subject to the management and direction of our *Father*, yet as the *younger part of the family*^d, whose business it is to look after the *park and the fences*, have been bred up under the care, and maintained at the expence of our *Mother* chiefly, we hold it our duty, now we are grown up, to support her in return.

My *Father's* part of the *Estate* has been in some respects, it is true, kept *distinct* from my *Mother's*, yet their *interests* are in others *closely connected*^e; my *Father* never

^b Ch—h of E—d.

^c Heir to the *Father's* estate.

^d E—sh C—gy.

^e Alliance between Ch—h and St—e.

makes

makes a *lease*, or hires a *servant*, without her concurrence; and they have been remarked in general for a very *cordial attachment* to each other, though attempts are forever making to divide them: Nay, it has been supposed that there is a *striking resemblance between them*^f, in manners as well as features; insomuch that it is a common observation in the country, that this was one of the *marriages* that were certainly *made in heaven*. My *Mother*, I should tell you, is rather advanced in years, though, I thank God, still chearful, and sound in mind as well as body, regularly attends the *service of the Church*, and would live a very peaceable and happy life, with all her family and tenants about her, but that she is troubled with *bad neighbours*.

One of her relations, many years ago, left her by will a very comfortable provision for her own separate use, a *good house and park held under the Lord of the manor*,

^f Similar constitutions.

well stocked and *well paled*^s, a reasonable good estate *within a ring fence*, and a large pond *well stored with fish*. In this will, which is carefully preserved in the family, he left but few conditions, and those not hard ones, to be complied with; only this one he was very particular in, for he repeats it four or five times, "KEEP YOUR FENCES IN GOOD REPAIR."

Now you must know, Sir, that this happy kind of life, which the Old Lady leads among her tenants, is apt to raise the envy of some of her neighbours, who want to *throw down the fences*, and to lay all open to the common, which the good man my *Mother's* kinsman, and his forefathers before him, took such special care to guard against. There are many of these troublesome folks that border too close upon us; but those who trespass the most are *three families*^b, that have been noted for mischief all their lives.

^s Ch—h and St—e secured by the C—p—n and T—t acts.

^b P—b—ns, An—p—ts, and In—p—ts.

All these three families have tickets¹ from the keepers to come and hunt in *certain parts* of the inclosures, and may have a general *licence* when they please; but this won't satisfy them, unless they can at any time enter in and overrun the whole, without being bound to the conditions, that even we of the family have so long submitted to.

The first consists of those who have connections in a country *too far North for us*, have a wonderful aversion to *white linen*, and have lived so many years, like their friends on the other side the Tweed, upon *oatmeal and water-gruel*, that they begin to grow tired of that diet, and long for some of the *wheaten bread* from off our farm, and some of the *fish* out of our pond.

The second set one would think were marvellously foul and dirty, and they say they cannot keep themselves clean, though

¹ Act of T——tion.

they have been *regularly washed before*, unless they are *dipped over again in our mill-stream*. These, however, are in the main some of the best of the whole crew, and a few of them would seem disposed to live friendly and neighbourly among us; only they cannot bear to hear the *little children* cry, when they are *sprinkled with cold water*.

But they have been joined of late (though I have not heard that they are over-fond of their new companions) by a gang of as ar-rant night-strollers, as ever caught hare in a noose; who never have a shilling in their pockets to go to market with, live wholly upon *credit*^{*}, and make a merit of *never paying their debts*.

These indeed do not usually go out on their night excursions in company with the others; but they are glad, like hounds of different kinds, for the sake of *numbers*, and to make a *louder cry*, to *join packs* some-

* Faith without works.

times, and to *bunt* under the protection of those who are provided with a *ticket*¹.

Another party of these new confederates are those who say they must be *born three or four times*^m in their lives; once when they come into the world; a second time when they are *plunged over head and ears in the river*; and a third time at least—in a *flash of lightning*ⁿ.

But the saddest fellows they are connected with, and who say that they too must have a *new dipping*, are those who will own to you, that if they were *condemned*^o to be hanged *before the world was made*, they must be hanged, do what they will; and if they must be hanged, they may as well be hanged for stealing a sheep or a fat buck out of the park, as a lamb or a rabbit: But if

¹ To shelter themselves under the sanction of the T—tion Act.

^m Reg—tion.

ⁿ Sudden convictions and illuminations.

^o Pred—tion.

it be their *fate* not to be hanged, they cannot fail being reprieved under the gallows, or shall certainly be brought to life, after they are cut down; and therefore, with this confidence about them, and not having the fear of God before their eyes, they care not what distress they occasion, or what trespass they commit.

The third family, that I told you harboured too near the park, are a sturdy sort of people, under no controul whatever, connected with the rest indeed, but *dependent*, they say, *on no one*. They are thought to be some of the descendants of old *Mr. Oliver Bluff*, who formerly was possessed of this very house and estate that we now live in; though people don't scruple to say, that he had *no good title to it*, and that he *killed the Lord of the manor with a great cleaver*, to get possession. This gentleman was very famous for turning every thing topsy-turvy, and in one of his mad freaks made nothing to kick the *Steward* and all the *Jury* down

• H—e of C—ns.

stairs,

stairs, when they were met at a *Court leet*^r, broke the *Crier's staff*^r about his ears, and ordered them instantly to march out of *the great ball* to the sound of the *pipe and tabor*^r.

Now these three families, with their connections, (who, though *nearly related*, love one another, as the saying is, as the Devil loves holy water) all hold together, when they are disposed to trouble us, and have sent every where round the country, to bring against our good Mother as great a posse of their relations as they can raise, threaten to pull up the *park pales*, trample down the hedges, swear they will come and hunt without our leave, destroy the *game*, take the *fish* out of the pond, and live at free cost upon the old Lady, with as good a right and title as any of *her own family*. But first, they say, they will present us at the *next court*, for taking in a part of the common, though we have enjoyed it for so many years, vow vengeance against the *Lord of the manor* for uphold-

^r P——l——nt.

^r Sp——r's M-ce.

^r Drum and fife, or armed force.

ing his tenants, and swear they won't bring a *single vote* for you, Mr. Steward, *at the next election of a coroner**, if they are not allowed to come in upon their own terms, and have their chance of being appointed *game-keepers, bailiffs, coachmen, house-stewards, or attornies*†, as well as others.

Now, Mr. Steward, they know very well that we are bound to obey our relation's will, and to stand by our *good mother*, who does not wish to keep all her neighbours out of the *park*, or to preserve the *game and other good things* to her own private use: But as the will speaks so plainly about *keeping up the fences*, and mentions those by name, who shall be allowed to hunt, under certain conditions therein specified, she requires them only (as the will directs) *to come to church*‡, sit in the same pew, read out of the same *common prayer*, and in

* Similar qualifications for electing a C—r and some M——rs of P—l——nt.

† Places of trust and profit in the c—v—l and m—t—ry est——nts. ‡ S——tal T—t.

the same posture with her, once between one court-day and the next; and besides this to write their names in a book", that she may know who they are that come to hunt in the park, and that all improper persons may be shut out.

Mr. Steward, you are reckoned in our country a man of learning, and are thought to understand the business of our *manor*, and the title we have to the estates in our family, as well as most men; and you have shewn your regard as well to my *Mother's* as to my *Father's separate and joint interests*, in more instances than one. We in particular, *the younger part of the family*, are greatly beholden to you and the *Jury*, for the stand you made *at the last court*, when the same troublesome neighbours (who vow they will make a regular *presentment* year after year, court after court, till they carry their point) made their complaints against us for encroachment upon the waste,

Sub—tion to A—s.

and excluding them from the *park*, and *privilege of free chace*.

But these gentlemen have not yet told us what they propose doing, supposing that they should come in by *breaking down the fences*. The *manor* and *park* are of no great extent, and if all were laid open, there would not be game enough to stock the whole country. I very much fear they would serve us as they tell you the fox serves the badger; turn him out of his earth, lie snug in his hole, and leave poor Grey to make another for himself where he could. Once entered, they would endeavour of course to secure themselves, (for a common they would find is no property) *repair the fences*, make the *pales* higher and stronger than they were before, shut the gates of the *park*, and bar the doors of the *house* against us, so that we must be to seek for a lodging upon the waste, or wherever we could find a hole to creep into. The only difference then would be, that *they* would be *within*, and *we without*; and as
that

that would be of no concern to the rest of the world, the best way, I should think, would be to let things continue as they are, those who are *now within* maintain their right of possession, and, following literally the instructions in the will, "KEEP THEIR FENCES IN GOOD REPAIR."

The levelling scheme had a fair trial, a little more than a century ago, but it was not found to answer; though *old 'Squire Bluff*, that I mentioned before, played a deep game to bring it in, turned it dextrously to his own advantage, and contrived to get all the play into his own hands. To keep all trespassers out of the *Park* and enclosures, he was obliged to put the game laws in execution with greater rigour than ever, raised the *pale*, rebuilt the walls, and took particular care that no one should reproach him with not *keeping up the fences*. Nay, he and his friends were so very uncivil as to refuse a *ticket* to those whose turn it was now to be without, and would not suffer them to keep
a dog

a dog or a gun, or even to kill a hare upon their own estates ².

But to say the truth, there was some sort of cleverness in him, or he could not have continued his tricks so long, for every body knew, as well as himself, that he did not come honestly by what he had; but he loved a little fun, put hot coals into the boots of one, dashed the ink in the face of another, threw a bolster at the head of a third, and all this when they were engaged in the most serious business; but as this was done in good-humour, and he took the same liberties from them in return, it kept the people in good-humour with him: but when he grew old and peevish, turned his back upon their petitions, and blurted out his coarse filthy jests upon the *customs of their manor*, and their great ³ copy of court-

² “ The ordinance of 1645 inflicted imprisonment for a year on the third offence, and pecuniary penalties on the former two, in case of using the Book of Common Prayer, not only in a place of public worship, but also in a private family.” *Blackstone's Commentaries*, Vol. iv. Ch. 4. note. Oct. ed.

³ M—a Ch—a.

roll, they began to smell a rat, and would willingly have ferretted him out, as they did his son afterwards, to make way for the right owner; but he was too cunning for them all, his good fortune helped him out to the last, and he was suffered to die quietly in his bed—to cheat the hangman of his old clothes.

Why our neighbours should fancy their scheme will succeed better in their hands than it did in his, when there are so few now-a-days that know how to manage the game so well, I own surprizes me; and yet it may be natural enough in them to think it worth a second or a third trial, because they can lose nothing if it should fail. But why any of those, who are now within the *pale*, should be so condescending to their neighbours as to throw the gates quite open to them, is a matter of some astonishment; unless they can imagine that the same game will not be attempted to be played over again, and that, when the fences are levelled, they won't be repaired again with the same expedition to keep the old owners out; or
unless

unless indeed they think they can see further into the inside of the millstone than their fathers.

Some few years after Mr. *Bluff's* death, a very great and a very fortunate change was brought about in our manor; for when our affairs were going at fixes and sevens, * Sir *William Frogland* was invited over from the fen country, to help us out of our difficulties, and he was so kind, in compliance with our application, as to accept a transfer of the house and park, royalties, and fisheries, stock in trade, goods and implements of all kinds, in favour of *Self and Co*, who were likely to make, and did make, a much better use of them. Matters were then thought, with some little indulgences that have been granted since, to be put upon a right footing, and every *man's walk* both within and without the park to be fairly marked out: but it seems our neighbours think that the work was then, and is even now only done

* P— of O—ge. See *John Bull*.

by

by halves, and are determined to make a thorough change when they set about it, by new-modelling and laying-out the whole, or reducing all to one general waste, without bounds, balks, or meer-stones, let the game run wild again, as it did at first, lessen the farming business, and apply themselves chiefly to carding and spinning, or catching and salting herrings *.

That worthy gentleman your father, whom I well remember, and whose services will not soon be forgotten in this place, was, for no long time indeed, *Steward of this manor* before you; and I never heard that in his time any of these troublesome neighbours offered such insults to our family, sent such *menacing letters* about the country, or dropped their *inflammatory notes* at every person's door. He was a very steady friend to the *family of the Bulls*, and when he undertook the care of our *estate*, he found us involved in a very complicated and ex-

* Encouraging the commercial in preference to the landed interest.

penfive *law-suit*^b : Before he was appointed, things were going on very unprosperously indeed, and we were in danger of losing field after field, till we were likely not to have a *foot of land left* ; but in a year or two we recovered ourselves wonderfully under his management, and had he been suffered to continue but *a term or two* longer in the *stewardship*, it was thought he would have brought *the suit* to a better *issue*, than, they say, some folks did.

Oh ! Mr. Steward, since that time we have been engaged in another *law-suit*^c, in which (except in a *cause* about some *fishing-boats* that we seized, and another about a few acres of *barren rock* that our opponents ran their heads against, in both which we had a *verdict in our favour*) we made a woful figure indeed ; for what with *writs of error*, *noli prosequi's*, *capias's*, *distringas's*, and *ejectments*, the *negligence of solicitors* on our side, and the *tricks of attornies* on theirs, we contrived to lose *a very fine estate* out of the

^b War with Fr——e and Sp——n. See *John Bull*.

^c War with Am——ca, Fr——ce, Sp——n, and H——d.

family, and deeply *mortgaged* the remainder, to pay the *law expences*. However, Sir, we have made a shift to live tolerably well, notwithstanding this loss; and I have been told by those who understand *arithmetic* better than I pretend to do, that if you are permitted to go on *lowering the capital debt*, by what I think they call *the operations of compound interest*, (things which we country folks are not much used to, and which we leave to you and your *clerks in the office*) and are not forced into another *law-suit* against your inclination, we are in a fair way of clearing some of the *incumbrances*, and paying off in a few years a good part of the *principal mortgage*.

But they say that in all the *manors* round us there seems a general disposition *to go to law*; and hints have been thrown out, that we may by a *side-wind* be driven into that *bottomless gulph*, (as the writer of my *Brother's history* used to call it) but from which we have reason to pray, " Good Lord, deliver " us; or, if we should be so lucky as to keep
out

out of that scrape, we must not be behind the rest of the world, we are told; for there is now a general determination in the *tenants to turn against their lords*^a; and they are likely, they say, to make a tolerable hand of *opposition* in the *next parish*, the other side of our *great pond*: Nay, they talk there, as if they had already *levelled all the fences*, and made every thing as *common* as it was, before there were *any boundaries between the parishes*.

This, Mr. Steward, may perhaps be one reason, why our neighbours are making this *fresh stir* about the country, and crying it in every market-town, that this is the time, now or never, to make one bold push to *level the fences* here, in the same *summary way*, and with the same view to a *general scramble*. But to my way of thinking, they do not seem to attend to this difference, which is very plain to be seen between the two cases. *The Lord of the next parish* was always known to be a very *lofty-minded man*, and to

^a F—ch K—g, Emp—r, &c.

hold a high hand over his tenants; would send a *constable* with a *billet* * to lodge any man in the *round-house* for life, that was seen within his *park*; and order him to *row* in one of his great barges fifteen years for killing a hare or a pheasant, or offering to hunt, shoot, or course, within five miles of any one of his *country seats*.

There was some pretence, perhaps, for the *tenants* there to be displeased, and wishing to come in for a little share of the *game*, that ran about the country as plenty as sparrows, and did God knows what mischief among the corn; and if the farmers were not allowed to carry home a hare now and then to their wives, who might perhaps be in a longing condition, it is not so much to be wondered at, if they did in a frolic pull up the *pales* and stakes in the park, (especially if they had all the *attornies* and *retainers* of the law on their side) to make a general *havock* of the hares and partridges.

* L—re de C—t.

€

But

But the case, I take it, is quite otherwise with us. My *Mother*, as I told you before, never refused any gentleman or farmer *hunting or coursing* in any part of the *park*, or even the very *warren*, which she used to call her *parlour*, if they would only observe the conditions, which she will insisted on; and besides, if any man had been clapp'd up in the *blindhouse* for doing damage to the *fences*, or making a riot, it could not have been for more than a night or so, for the next *Justice of the peace* might have sent his *warrant to the constable*, and ordered his 'body out of custody at the first notice; so that they could not produce two instances more opposite to each other; for upon *our manor* none were refused to hunt who *asked decently and properly*, and upon our *neighbour's* none were admitted, either without asking, or with it.

Surely, Mr. Steward, these troublesome neighbours of ours do not wish to make such confusion in *this parish*, as there is now going on among the *parks, woods, and*

orchards, of *'Squire Lewis* on one side of us; or among the *low-lands* and corn-fields belonging to his brother-in-law, *Sir Joseph Sheldon*, on the other. These Gentlemen, as you may guess of one of them, from what I have told you before, were as remarkable for distressing their tenants, as our Lord is for protecting his; and to say the truth, the very storm that has actually fallen seems to have been *long brewing*. But I hope our *tenants and cottagers* will take warning by these riots, not to destroy every *fence*, for fear of confounding every man's rights; nor to pull down a *good old house* about their ears, which may yet stand many generations; and be contented, as my *Mother* says, to *let well alone*. But above all, I trust in God that they do not mean to confine *our Lord*, should they get the upper hand, a close prisoner in his own house, as one of his neighbouring Lords is said to be at this time; or to shut him out of his castles, parks, and royal-ties, as most of the *tenants* seem disposed to serve the other.

Mr. Steward, we have this confidence in you, that you will endeavour to preserve the peace among the tenants and cottagers within *your manor*, as well as keep us out of that *bottomless gulph* we are in such dread of; and therefore we have one favour to beg of you, in return for the suit and service we owe, and shall be ever ready to pay. You are not to be told, Sir, that we *tenants* seldom have the pleasure to see the face of our worthy Lord of the manor; he did of late visit some part of his manor, and it did one's heart good to see with what glee and extacy he was received wherever he went: What we have to request of you therefore, is to state to him in our behalf, how cruelly his poor tenants are terrified, what menaces are thrown out against you, that many of these incendiary speeches will not be sparing against himself, and that without his support we and our faithful family may be overpowered by numbers. And we have this further petition to make, that you will let these troublesome gentry know, that, if they will be quiet and sociable, eat and drink in charity with us,

suffer

suffer their *names to appear on our list in their own hand-writing*, and promise to do no damage to the *paling*, bounds, and hedges, they shall have free ingress and egress in and out of any part of the *house, park, or inclosures*, and shall be considered and live with us, as *part of the family*, without lett or hindrance. But if they will continue to trespass upon their quiet neighbours, break down *the fences*, and enter in when and how they think proper, we hereby give them fair and legal notice, that we are determined to *stand trial* with them, and hope that you, Mr. Steward, will see that our *good Mother*, who is one of *your Lord's best tenants*, and we that *live within the pale of the park*, be not molested in our rights and properties.

I am, Sir,

Your very obedient humble servant,

WILLIAM BULL.

P O S T S C R I P T,

I Have been informed that these neighbours of ours give out in *public advertisements*, that they will answer no *letters or notices* that are sent *without a name*. Now that they may have no excuse of this sort, I have, in my *hand-bills* and *advertisements*, and in this *Address* to you, Sir, signed our *true family name*, which, I thank God, we have hitherto had no reason to be ashamed of, together with my own *christian name and place of abode*, that they may know, if they think proper, where and how to direct to me. But if they hold their heads up high, be out of humour, because we are disposed to be cheerful, look big and bounce, when they think they are talking to nobody, I shall beg leave to put them in mind of what the countryman told the doctors, when they were sitting in *convocation*,

tion". "Friend," says one of them, "what pleasure do you take in hearing these learned disputants, when you cannot understand a word they say?" "No matter if I can't," says Hodge, "I can see however who have the *worst of the argument, by their putting themselves in a passion, and talking loud.*"

Should these gentlemen say further that it is a weak cause which wants a laugh to support it, that they shall pay no regard to low buffoonery, but are prepared to answer fair reasoning by solid argument; some of *our family, who have had a grammar-school education*, desire them to understand, that they deal also in serious arguments, of which they have a budget full ready for all occasions; and they beg to be informed in which kind their opponents would wish to be reasoned with, for they have them of all sizes,—a *Syllogism*, a *Sorites*, or a *Dilemma*^f.

* At the Synod of Dort.

^f Different kinds of logical arguments.—See the History of *John Bull*.

If they prefer a *syllogism*, here is one ready prepared to their hands:—

Whoever breaks a hedge, pulls up a *pale*, or removes a *fence*, the *custom of the manor* ordains that he shall be whipped three times round the market at the tail of our dung-cart:

But our neighbours are guilty of breaking hedges, pulling up *pales*, and removing *fences*:

Therefore, according to the said *custom*, they shall be whipped three times round the market at the tail of our dung-cart,

And so you may go on with a *string of syllogisms* as long as the rope of a well.

The *Sorites* is equally grave and serious, and though it takes a little more time to get to the end of it, *the conclusion is equally just*.

A *Sorites*

A *Sorites* is for all the world like our house-ladder; the first step of which is, Mrs. *Bull* being possessed of certain lands, tenements, and hereditaments, her neighbours wish to dispossess her of them:—Mrs. *Bull* cannot be lawfully dispossessed of these premises, because she has *the custom of the manor* on her side; and long continuance:—If the *custom of the manor* will secure her from *ejectment*, violence must be used to dispossess her:—In using violence, some out-house may be pulled down, or barn or stable set on fire:—Pulling down houses, and setting fire to barns or stables, the said *custom of the manor* says, is hanging *without benefit of clerkship*.—These are some of the middle steps of the ladder, and the last step they take is a very short one—to the gallows.

But the gravest and best argument of all that *our family* value themselves and depend chiefly upon, is their *Dilemma*, or that way of reasoning, in which the adversary may take which side he chuses. And here we have

have an exact representation of one of *Lord Strutt's*^s *bull-feasts*, upon one of his high holidays; or rather a *dilemma* is more like a *bull-baiting* with us, in one of our market-towns. Some of our family have been always fond of this diversion, and they generally keep a few of these animals in training for the purpose.

In this manner the *dilemma* is brought into play. Either it is wrong to get into the *park* by any other way than the *park-gate*, or it is not:—If they say it is wrong, it comes to a short decision at once, Why do they wish to do what they know to be wrong? Thus we have them upon one of the *bull's horns*.—If they say it is not wrong, here the *dilemma* takes them again. They all have their little chapels on the waste, where they *meet* once in a week, as we do in our *church*. In their's, as well as in our's, a *great will*^h, which was left in common to us all near 1800 years

^s K—g of Sp—n.—See the History of *John Bull*.

^h See the Tale of a Tub.

ago, is or ought to be read, though some of *them*, I have heard, are apt to read it *upside-down*. In that *will* it is expressly written, that “ *He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.*” They know who it was that said this, and let them get over that argument as they can;—Here *Mr. Bull* has them upon *the other horn*, and so they are tossed backwards and forwards from *horn to horn*, nor with all their writhings and strugglings can they possibly get out of this scrape; which will be a very useful lesson to them in future—to beware of the *Bull’s horns*.

That facetious Gentleman *Mr. Partridge* says, he never knew but two reasons for shaving; one is to get a beard, and the other to get rid of it. I may say in like manner, that I know but two ways of laughing, either to laugh with a man, or to laugh at him. If our good neighbours will not indulge us so far as to give us an opportunity to use the former, they cannot entertain an
idea

idea that we mean to be so uncivil, as to try the latter at their expence. We have endeavoured to comply with their wishes, to be as sober and as sad as we could; and for this purpose we have collected all those legitimate and serious modes of arguing, which are full of pith, but totally void of *humour*; and which may not disgrace those fine and *logical arguments*, as they call them, which are learned at so great an expence by the boys in the grammar-schools, either at Mrs. Grant's bridge¹, or Mr. Bull's ford².

¹ C—mb—ge.

² Ox—d.

A D D E N D A.

WILL you believe it, Mr. Steward, our good neighbours are so kind to us now that the country is roused in earnest, and the verdict has been given in our favour, to say that we have been the cause of all this bustle, and have put things in this strange fermentation; when every body knows, if they would but speak the truth, that we did not stir a foot till all the posse was at the park-gate with pitchforks, bludgeons, crows, sledges, and pickaxes, swearing that they would pull down the house about our ears, if we did not open the gates, or level the fences. What should possess us to make such a stir? We were very quiet and comfortable as we were, and should have continued so to this hour, if they had not disturbed us. But now they know what we can do with your help, when we are put to it, we hoped they would have learned a little more wit, and
let

let us alone. But they seem inclined, by what I can understand, to try their strength again before another court, and a fresh jury; and one¹ gentleman in particular, the very day after the court was adjourned, begins to have a fling at our family, and to call our good Mother only a Mother-in-law, and as acting the part of a true Mother-in-law to some of her husband's children, that she may get a better slice for her own. But, Sir, the gentleman seems a little out in his genealogy, as they call it. We should take it kind, if he would inform us who Mr. *Bull*'s first wife was; for if Mrs. *Bull* is a mother-in-law, her husband must have been married before; but it was never heard among us, who ought to know best, that our father had any other wife than his present lady, whom they are for ever cracking their jests against, and call very bad names. Sister *Peg*^m indeed is supposed to have been too great with ⁿ *Bald Jack at the gin-shop*, and they do say there was hardly time for the first child to be

¹ See an address to the opposers of the repeal, &c.

^m Ch——h of Sc——d.

ⁿ J——n C——n of G——va.

born in lawful wedlock. This gentleman perhaps may come from that breed ; but I am sure he has very little of the true blood of the *Bulls* in him, or he never would use our poor mother so unmercifully.

The gentleman feels a little sore at the battle going so hollow in our favour : But he vows he will have another bout with us, as the saying is in our country at cudgels, and “ knock him down dead as often as we will, he’ll get up and at us again.” To be sure, Mr. Steward, they did look out for a better stickler or second for them this time, who talked a great deal, if he could do nothing else : but what signified all his talking, and ever so well, for two hours by the clock, when there was so little for him to talk about ? And while you stand by us so manfully, speak up to him so boldly, and attend to the main chance of summoning a good, true, and full homage, by which trick you fairly outwitted them all, we shan’t think ourselves or our good father and mother (for their interests, notwithstanding

standing all that they say, are inseparable) in any kind of danger. And, Sir, if you will but contrive to keep us out of that bottomless gulph the law (but that must not be done by seeming to be afraid of it) we'll gladly pay excise for our port and tobacco, and drink long life, health, and prosperity to the lord and the lady, not forgetting the steward, of the manor of *Bishop's Whitelands*.

N. B. I can hardly think it, but I have been told for certain, that the writer of that piece of wit against our good mother, that I took to be a gentleman, is all this while a woman in man's clothes. If I had known it had been a woman, (though I do not think a woman should be the first to cry out against her own sex) I would not have frightened her for all the world: The *Bulls* are terrible creatures, and almost as ill-favoured as Master *Slender's* friend *Sackerston*, "the women can't abide 'em."

F I N I S.

